Country of the Week: Comoros

Did you know that Comoros consists of three major islands and numerous smaller islands in the volcanic Comoros archipelago?

With a diverse history and population, Comoros is known for its lively and unique culture. Even the ecology and environment of Comoros is distinct, constituting its own ecoregion with more than 500 species of endemic plants you won't find anywhere else in the world! Amidst this rural, natural beauty, the Comoros economy is heavily centered around agriculture—an industry that employs much of the labor force and produces many exports, such as ylang-ylang and vanilla.

As the country continues to grow, many Comorians work tirelessly to support and advance important issues, such as sustainability, community health, and education. That's why Comoros is #CountryoftheWeek! Read on for three inspiring member stories, and bring impact to your own community by exploring the <u>YALI Network Online Courses</u>.

This week's featured member, El-anzize Ali Boana Hidi, comes from Ntsoudjini, where he actively participates in programs that promote Comorian development and culture.

Working with a wide range of organizations, many of which he is a member, El-anzize strives to impact his community in a variety of ways. His work with the Ministry of Interior through the Operations and Relief Directorate helps organize "a First Aid Unit that regularly intervenes in disaster relief missions," including training members of the community in disaster preparedness. The Scout Ngomé movement of Ntsoudjini also provides a way for him to organize activities throughout the country. "Our events cover a range of topics from reforestation of the islands and villages to social, cultural, and political issues," he says. "We also organize courses to support local students who are preparing for national exams."

Join El-anzize and YALI Network members like him by signing up using the form on the YALI Network <u>website</u>. You'll receive email updates, opportunities to collaborate with other young leaders, and access to helpful products and programs such as <u>YALI Network Online Courses</u> and <u>#YALILearns events!</u>

Ramlat Matoiri Boina



Our next featured member, Ramlat Matoiri Boina, participated in the <u>Mandela Washington</u> <u>Fellowship</u> in 2016, and she knows first-hand how impactful the <u>YALI Network Online Courses</u> and resources can be.

Ramlat regularly volunteers in her village, hosting workshops and focus groups to promote essential healthy practices. As an educator, she raises awareness about public health, and plans to support Comorian youth by establishing a training center to empower and encourage civic engagement.

While studying at Appalachian State University, she further developed her leadership skills in community mobilization. She is highly skilled in development activities, volunteer management, capacity building, project design and implementation. Spending much of her time in the local library, she plans to share this knowledge with Comorian students.

Anzize Ali Boura Soilihi



Our last featured member, Anzize Ali Boura Soilihi, is also a 2016 Mandela Washington Fellow.

He is a devoted English teacher in Comoros, serving as a coordinator for an English center in his hometown. He dreams of improving the overall quality of education, especially in the field of English skills, to empower students and improve his country.

Anzize plans to invest in strengthening and upgrading the English training center, organizing workshops, and inspiring thoughtful debates. In his opinion, debates are the best way to enrich and expand knowledge in human beings.

If you're interested in impacting your local community, get involved by visiting the <u>YALI Network website</u>, and access helpful products and programs such as <u>YALI Network Online Courses</u> and <u>#YALILearns events</u> today.